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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4748

EXDIS

EUR/WE FOR AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD

DEPARTMENT PASS USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL AND USCINCEUR
VAIHINGEN GER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS PO
SUBJ: TRAVEL OF ADMIRAL SOUTO CRUZ TO U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 161409 (B) LISBON 4521

1. CHMAAG AND EMBOFF MET WITH NAVY CHIEF ADM SOUTO CRUZ JUNE 27 AND MADE POINTES CONTAINED PARAS 1 AND 2 REF A. AS FAR AS SOUTO CRUZ AND PRESUMABLY PRESIDENT EANES WERE CONCERNED, WASHINGTON WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS BEYOND FY 79. SOUTO CRUZ IS NOT INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS ALREADY BUDGETED.

2. WHEN CHMAAG REEMPHASIZED THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS COULD NOT DISCUSS POSSIBLE EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES BEYOND FY 79 PROGRAM, SOUTO CRUZ COUNTERED WITH "COMMITMENTS EMBODIED IN THE NATO SUMMIT-APPROVED LTDP" AND ALLEGED EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN RE PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION AND ARMED FORCES STABILITY ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECDEF BROWN. HE
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NOTED THAT WHILE PORTUGUESE ARMY AND AIR FORCE NEEDS MIGHT BE ADDRESSED ON A YEAR-TO-YEAR BASIS (THE SHORT TERM), NAVY UPGRADING IS A LONGER TERM ISSUE. CONSEQUENTLY, HE EXPLAINED HE WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THE GOP CAN FULFILL ITS ALLIANCE COMMITMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LTDP. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, HE CONTINUED, HAS REVIEWED AND ENDORSED PORTUGUESE

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PRESENTATIONS OF EQUIPMENT NEEDS AND THE ALLIES HAVE MADE
APPROVING NOISES. NEVERTHELESS, NON-US ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE FORCE MODERNIZATION EFFORT HAVE BEEN "ALMOST ZERO."

3. SOUTO CRUZ THEN RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF AMMUNITION
AND HEAVY INDUSTRY PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN PORTUGAL FOR
NATO UNDER U.S. LICENSE. HE STRESSED THAT SUCH PRODUCTION
FACILITIES--FOR WHICH THE DOMESTIC INFRASTRUCTURE ALREADY
EXISTS--WOULD CONSTITUTE A REAL PORTUGUESE CONTRIBUTION TO
LTDP INITIATIVES "AT NO COST TO NATO." PORTUGAL, HE
MAINTAINED, CANNOT REMAIN DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN LOANS OR
MILITARY ASSISTANCE GRANTS. IN-COUNTRY PRODUCTION FACILITIES
WOULD PROMOTO PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC RECOVERY WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY
CONTRIBUTING TO OVERALL NATO OBJECTIVES. HE WOULD PREFER
TO PURSUE THIS POSSIBILITY BILATERALLY WITH THE U.S. AND
NOT WITH NATO.

4. COMMENT: CONVERSATION CONFIRMED EMBASSY AND
DEPARTMENTS CONCERNS THAT PORTUGUESE EXPECTATIONS OF
ADDITIONAL GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN BOLSTERED.
SENSING POTENTIAL WASHINGTON RESISTANCE TO LONG-TERM MAP
COMMITMENTS, SOUTO CRUZ WAS QUICK TO LINK FORCE MODERNIZATION
GOALS TO LTDP AND CARTER/EANES BILATERAL. CHMAAG INDICATED
THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD DISCUSS THE ISSUE FURTHER WITH
WASHINGTON AND KEEP HIM ADVISED.

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5. SOUTO CRUZ NOW UNDERSTANDS THAT DISCUSSIONS OF MAP
BEYOND FY 79 AT NOT POSSIBLE, BUT STILL WANTS TO PROCEED
WITH DISCUSSIONS ALONG LINES DESCRIBED PARAS 2-4 ABOVE, INCLUDING
WAYS IN WHICH OTHER ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS MIGHT BE
STEPPED UP. NEVERTHELESS, IF HIS VISIT MATERIALIZES, SOUTO
CRUZ CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE THE 1976 FORCE MODERNIZATION
CONCEPT, GOP CONCERN THAT THOSE PROGRAM GOALS HAVE NOT BEEN
MET, F5S, P-3S, AND FRIGATE MODERNIZATION. ON TIMING, HE
WILL BE IN LONDON THE THIRD WEEK IN JULY. OTHERWISE HE
IS FLEXIBLE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON AGENCIES' RESPONSE TO
DISCUSSIONS SUGGESTED BY SOUTO CRUZ IN PARAS 2-4.
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